Shortage of fodder and drugs for animals

932. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States suffering from shortage of fodder and drugs for animals; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The name of States which suffer from shortage of fodder are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. There is no report regarding shortage of drugs in the States.

(b) Government of India implements the following schemes for development of feed and fodder in the country as a whole.

1. Central Fodder Development Organisation comprises seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration located in different agro-climatic conditions in the country. In addition, there is one Central Fodder Seed Production Farm at Hessarghatta, Bangalore. All these farms are engaged in multiplication of fodder seeds and implementation of Central Minikit Testing Programme under which fodder kits are supplied to the farmers through State Governments free of cost.

2. Under the Centrally sponsored scheme—"Assistance of States for Feed and Fodder Development", Government of India releases funds to the State Governments, at the rates ranging from 25% to 100%, for fodder and fodder seed production.

Use of wheat herbicide 'Leader'

933. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new generation wheat herbicide Leader, launched three years ago by a multi-national seed company has registered maximum sales in North India;

(b) whether, apart from its ability to control different broad leaf weeds, it has also led to an increase in the yield; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on the use of this new seed, to improve the growth rate in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Sir, The total sale of various herbicides for the control of weeds in wheat crop in the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was 1412.5, 1423.5 and 1357.0 MT (Technical Grade) respectively in Punjab out of which the sale of 'Leader' during these years was 7.5 MT, 9.5 MT and 11.5 MT. In Haryana, its sale was 3.0, 5.0 and 5.53 MT, respectively. In Uttar Pradesh, the herbicide 'Leader' is not reported to have been used during these years.

(b) By controlling weeds in wheat crop with the use of herbicides, the yield of crops is reported to increase. This fact is true for all herbicides including 'Leader'.

(c) As has been mentioned in part (a) and (b), it is not a new seed but a herbicide. Farmers are advised to use a suitable herbicide as per the crop condition for control of weeds.

Subsidy to fertilizer sector

934. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) What is the total quantum of subsidy given to the fertilizer sector during the last three years;

(b) the names of fertilizer manufacturing companies to whom this subsidy has been given during that period and the amount given to each of those companies; and

(c) the amount of subsidy given to marginal farmers, especially those who hold below five acres of land, giving the figures State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF